

00862.023154

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Application of:

NORIYUKI SUZUKI, et al.

Application No.: 10/628,404

Filed: July 29, 2003

For: STORAGE UNIT,
INFORMATION PROCESSING
APPARATUS, AND EJECT
CONTROL METHOD FOR
STORAGE UNIT

March 12, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. In accordance with the Deputy Commissioner's pre-OG notice of July 11, 2003, copies of U.S. patents and/or applications are not provided. A copy of each foreign document so listed is enclosed.

Japan 8-167273
Japan 8-263383
Japan 10-301719
Japan 2000-276258
Japan 2001-357587
PCT/WO 01/97002
Europe 717,409

Applicants also respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to co-pending Application No. 10/628,460, filed July 29, 2003 by M. Kobayashi, et al. (Atty. Docket No. 00862.023155), s which has been assigned in common with the present application. A copy of this co-pending application is also enclosed

It is Applicants' belief that Japanese priority applications for some of the above U.S. applications may have been published before the filing date of the subject application, making the Japanese publications themselves available as prior art under at least § 102(a).

Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3).

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael K. Dineen", written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 32622

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

CA_MAIN 78393 v 1

FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)		ATTY DOCKET NO. 00862.023154	APPLICATION NO. 10/628,404				
<div style="position: relative; height: 100px;"> <div style="position: absolute; top: 0; left: 0; width: 100%; height: 100%; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; text-align: center; line-height: 100px; font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; transform: rotate(-45deg);"> RECEIVED MAR 15 2004 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE </div> </div>		APPLICANT Noriyuki Suzuki, et al.					
FILING DATE July 29, 2003		GROUP Unknown					
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		8-167273	6/25/96	Japan			Abstract
		8-263383	10/11/96	Japan			Abstract
		10-301719	11/13/98	Japan			Abstract
		2000-276258	10/6/00	Japan			Abstract
		2001-357587	12/26/01	Japan			Abstract
		01/97002	12/20/01	PCT/WO			Abstract
		717,409	6/19/96	Europe			
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 1 of 1